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Please amend the claims as follows:

1 through 22 (canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of degrading the image comprises reducing the size of the image.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of degrading the image comprises decreasing resolution of the image.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of determining whether the user is active or inactive further comprises determining whether a certain period of time has elapsed.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said certain period of time begins when the image was last refreshed.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said certain period of time begins when the image was last sent to the user's system.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of determining whether the user is active or inactive further comprises determining whether the user

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is using the user's system.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of determining whether the user is active or inactive further comprises determining whether a screen saver has been activated on the user's system.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of determining whether the user is active or inactive is performed periodically.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, further comprising:  
increasing the quality of the degraded image to produce a less degraded image upon determination that the user is active; and  
sending said less-degraded image to the user's system.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of refreshing the image is performed more frequently than the step of determining whether to degrade the image.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of determining whether to degrade the image occurs substantially concurrently with a refresh cycle.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the degraded image is sent to the user's system upon refresh.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, further comprising:  
receiving a request from the user to increase the quality of the degraded

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image;

increasing the quality of the degraded image to produce a less-degraded image in response to said request; and

sending said less-degraded image to the user's system.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of determining whether to degrade the image further comprises determining whether a certain period of time has elapsed, wherein said certain period of time begins upon a determination that the user is inactive.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising:  
increasing the quality of the degraded image to produce a less degraded image upon a determination that the user is active; and  
sending said less-degraded image to the user's system.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the image is sent to the user's system via a network, wherein the network is the Internet.

42. (Canceled)

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43. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying an image from a camera on a user's system, the method comprising:

sending the image to the user's system;

refreshing the image periodically;

determining whether to degrade the image which further comprises ~~[[,]] the step of determining whether to degrade the image comprising determining whether the user is active or inactive~~ which further comprises ~~[[,]] wherein the step of determining whether the user is active or inactive comprises determining whether a window displaying the image is fully visible to the user~~ which further ~~[[,]] wherein the act of determining whether a window displaying the image is fully visible to the user~~ comprises determining whether at least a portion of the image is visually obstructed;

degrading the image to produce a degraded image in response to a determination that said user is inactive and the portion of the image is visually obstructed; and

sending the degraded image to the user's system.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of determining whether the user is active or inactive further comprises determining whether the user has provided any input into the user's system.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the image is captured at a first location, wherein the user is located at a second location, wherein the first location is remote from the second location, wherein the user's system is configured to display

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the image.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of determining whether at least a portion of the image is visually obstructed comprises determining whether a window displaying the image is at least partially visually obstructed by another window.

49. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying an image from a camera on a user's system, the method comprising:

- receiving the image on the user's system;
- refreshing the image periodically;
- determining whether to degrade the image which further comprises[[,]] ~~the step of determining whether to degrade the image comprising~~ determining whether the user is active or inactive which further[[,]] ~~wherein the step of determining whether the user is active or inactive~~ comprises determining whether a window displaying the image is fully visible to the user which further[[,]] ~~wherein the act of determining whether a window displaying the image is fully visible to the user~~ comprises determining whether at least a portion of the image is visually obstructed;
- degrading the image to produce a degraded image in response to a determination that said user is inactive and the portion of the image is visually obstructed; and
- receiving the degraded image on the user's system.

50. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying an image from a camera on a user's system, the method comprising:

- receiving the image on the user's system;
- refreshing the image periodically;

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determining whether to degrade the image which further comprises[[,]] ~~the act of determining whether to degrade the image comprising~~ determining whether the user is active or inactive which further[[,]] ~~wherein the act of determining whether the user is active or inactive~~ comprises determining whether the image is fully visible to the user which further[[,]] ~~wherein the act of determining whether the image is fully visible to the user~~ comprises determining whether at least a portion of the image is visually obstructed;

degrading the image to produce a degraded image in response to a determination that said user is inactive and the portion of the image is visually obstructed; and

receiving the degrade image on the user's system.